

The body of the Mandurah bird was retrieved and is preserved as a study skin at the W.A. Museum (No. A9210). Its particulars are: ♀, weight, 72 gm.; length, 345 mm.; wing, 251; tail, 144; culmen, 28.2; tarsus, 15; middle toe and claw, 23.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

Travels of a Ringed Wedge-tailed Eagle and a White-faced Heron.—On June 20, 1963, a young Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*) was caught taking lambs from a farm property at Coomberdale. It was trapped and transferred to the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife Research laboratory at Nedlands for repair of an injured foot and subsequent release in a less inhabited area.

The eagle's foot healed well and the bird was taken to Karra-gullen on June 29, 1963, for release, bearing C.S.I.R.O. band No. 150-01210. On the ninth day after release, July 8, the young bird was shot and killed on a property just east of Beverley. This represents a flight of fifty odd miles direct in a due easterly direction in eight full days of freedom after a period of captivity.

Of greater surprise were the flight details of a four-month-old White-faced Heron (*Ardea novae-hollandiae*) earlier this year (1963). The heron had fallen from its nest in Cloverdale in October 1962, when approximately two weeks old. It was hand-raised in Dalkeith. On January 3, 1963, bearing C.S.I.R.O. band No. 100-02112, the young bird, healthy and of normal appearance, was transported to Northam for release by the Mortloek River. Since it had previously been maintained in a long enclosure which was too low-roofed to allow free flight, the release at Northam represented the bird's first real attempt at flying.

Upon the opening of the cage door the heron demonstrated immediate prowess in good, strong flight, and was left at the river with a pair of adult White-faced Herons in the near vicinity. Food in the form of *Gambusia* was abundant in the large pools the drying river had left.

On January 6, 1963, exactly three days later, the young heron flew into a householder's garden just south of Darlington and proceeded to harry the fish in an ornamental pond. Being relatively tame the bird was caught easily by a young boy, the C.S.I.R.O. was notified and we immediately collected the heron, which was lively and in perfect condition.

Thus, in three days, on its first flight, this heron had covered a distance of 45 miles in the direction of its birthplace, a south-westerly flight from an area with which it was absolutely unacquainted. The bird was later released at Coolup, still bearing band 100-02112, and flew off in the company of about 40 resident White-faced Herons.

—C. A. NICHOLLS, Nedlands

Probable Seed Reproduction in the Orchid, *Pterostylis vittata*.—Though the pollination mechanisms of terrestrial orchids are extraordinarily elaborate and seed is set freely, attempts at germination by horticulturists are almost always doomed to failure. A deter-